

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 408 without my signature.

This bill would place a durational residency requirement on anyone wishing to circulate an initiative or referendum petition. By requiring individuals wishing to participate in the initiative process to either be registered to vote or be residents of California for a prescribed period of time, this bill unfairly limits citizens' rights. Similar schemes in other states have been ruled unconstitutional.

Although I appreciate the proponents concerns with how the initiative process is sometimes utilized, I cannot support measures that are essentially a limitation of free speech.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger